



State of Arizona

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Statement by Governor Jan Brewer
Lowering State Flags in Wake of Marine Deaths

"This week, our nation lost seven U.S. Marines in what has been described as one of the Corps' deadliest aviation accidents in years. The Marines were performing a nighttime training operation near the California-Arizona border when their two helicopters crashed.

"Capt. Nathan W. Anderson, 32, was among the casualties of this tragic incident. Capt. Anderson, originally of Amarillo, Texas, was from the Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma. He had deployed three times to Iraq. In honor of Capt. Anderson's service and sacrifice, I have ordered that flags at all state buildings be flown at half-staff Saturday, February 25, 2012, from sunrise until sunset.

"I ask that you continue to keep Capt. Anderson and his loved ones in your thoughts and prayers. Please also offer your prayers for the friends and family of the other six brave Marines killed during this terrible tragedy:

- Maj. Thomas A. Budrejko, of Montville, Connecticut;
- Capt. Michael M. Quin, 28, of Purcellville, Virginia;
- Capt. Benjamin N. Cerniglia, 31, of Montgomery, Alabama;
- Sgt. Justin A. Everett, 33, of Clovis, California;
- Lance Cpl. Corey A. Little, 25, of Marietta, Georgia;
- Lance Cpl. Nickoulas H. Elliott, 21, of Spokane, Washington.

"This accident proves once again that our servicemen and women confront dangers daily, whether in combat or on a training mission. We owe them a debt of gratitude."

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